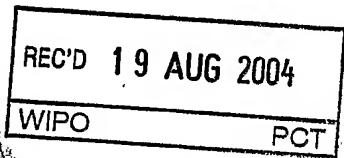
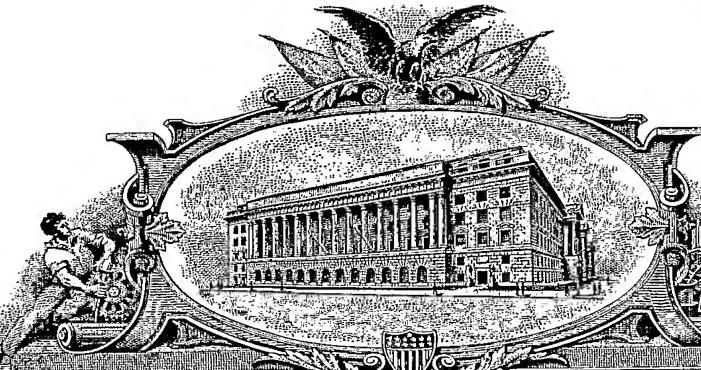


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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. _____

INVENTOR(S)

Given Name (first and middle if any)	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
MORDECHAI ASSAF	DEUTSCH DEUTSCH	MOSHAV OLESH, ISRAEL TZAFARAJA, ISRAEL

Additional Inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto

TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)MICRO-FLUIDICS INTEGRATED POLYMERIC INDIVIDUAL CELL CHIP DESIGN, MANUFACTURING AND SAMPLES OF APPLICATIONS
Direct all correspondence to: **CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

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Country	ISRAEL	Telephone	97235344675	Fax	97235342019

ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages	6	<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76		

METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.	FILING FEE Amount (\$)	80
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[Page 1 of 2]

Date 2/17/04

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

TYPED or PRINTED NAME MORDECHAI DEUTSCH

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Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001 770	2001 385	Utility filing fee	
1002 340	2002 170	Design filing fee	
1003 530	2003 265	Plant filing fee	
1004 770	2004 385	Reissue filing fee	
1005 160	2005 80	Provisional filing fee	80

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) **80**

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims	Independent Claims	Multiple Dependent	Extra Claims below	Fee Paid
			-20** =	X
			-3** =	X

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1202 18	2202 9	Claims in excess of 20	
1201 86	2201 43	Independent claims in excess of 3	
1203 200	2203 145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid	
1204 86	2204 43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent	
1205 18	2205 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

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Complete if Known

Application Number	200401717
Filing Date	2/17/2004
First Named Inventor	MOYDECHAI DEUTSCH
Examiner Name	
Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	344

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051 130	2051 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052 50	2052 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053 130	1053 130	Non-English specification	
1812 2,520	1812 2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804 920*	1804 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805 1,840*	1805 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251 110	2251 55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252 420	2252 210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253 950	2253 475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254 1,480	2254 740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255 2,010	2255 1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401 330	2401 185	Notice of Appeal	
1402 330	2402 165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403 280	2403 145	Request for oral hearing	
1451 1,510	1451 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452 110	2452 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453 1,330	2453 685	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501 1,930	2501 685	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502 480	2602 240	Design issue fee	
1503 640	2503 320	Plant issue fee	
1450 130	1450 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807 50	1807 50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1808 180	1808 180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
2021 40	8021 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809 770	2809 385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810 770	2810 385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801 770	2801 385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802 900	1802 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

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SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)

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Signature	ROBERT VASC	Telephone	97235344675
		Date	2/17/04

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PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

Title: Micro-fluidics Integrated Polymeric individual cell chip design, manufacturing and samples of applications.

Background

5 The current glass-based INTERACTIVE TRANSPARENT INDIVIDUAL CELLS BIOCHIP PROCESSOR (ITICBP) (individual cell chip) (WO 03/035824) posses some unique unmatched advantages:

1. The ability to preserve the location of certain viable cells in certain wells during long periods of time.
- 10 2. The ability to flush the cells with various dyes and reagents, yet saving the cells location.
3. The ability to watch, monitor and perform interactive tests on individual cells at any time.

However, the current production of the current glass-made ITICBP is relatively 15 complex, costly and time consuming. The process consists of delicate and precise steps, starting with individually etching and cutting every piece of glass and gaskets, followed by a slow manual assembly process of the glass pieces, gaskets, tubing and adhesives altogether. Moreover, it is not simple to make changes in the basic design of the micro-fluidics system, made of external metal needles attached to the ITICBP.

20 A brief description of the invention:

The present invention (hereinafter: Polymeric-ITICBP or P-ITICBP) refers to a novel micro-fluidics integrated ITICBP design and manufacturing, based upon easily replicable components and simple assembly processes. The proposed invention paves the way for easy reproduction of ITICBP by simplifying the manufacturing process of 25 the cell-wells array and featuring inherent micro-fluidics routes. Consequently, the proposed invention represents a robust ITICBP design, that is less sensitive to impacts and jolts and thus more suitable for shipping.

The present invention takes advantage of the casting method that is widely known as soft photolithography. Soft photolithography, i.e. casting a resilient polymer against 30 preset solid mold, is a known and widely used method in lab-on-chip applications as

well as in micro-fluidics applications. Poly-DiMethylSiloxane (PDMS) is one of the most common materials for soft photolithography, since PDMS has the capability of exact replication of delicate microstructures as well as the convenience of simple, removal from the mold without leaving unwanted residue thereupon.

5 PDMS is characterized by good optical transparency, low fluorescence, thermal and environmental stability and chemical inertness with respect to most laboratory reagents. Furthermore, PDMS is non-toxic using accepted cyto-toxicity assays. For example, formerly frozen human prostate cancer cells (PC3 Prostate cancer cells, from DSMZ GmbH, Germany), were cultured in RPMI medium with 10% Fetal calf Serum (FCS). Twice a week the cells were re-located to a new dish of identical type (control or silicone), by using trypsin-EDTA to detach the cells from the bottom. Trypsin-EDTA was applied for 1 minute in 37°C incubator. After trypsin - EDTA treatment, medium with serum was added to stop trypsin-EDTA activity, and new medium with serum is added. Two types of PDMS yield the following data:

10 15 Silicone #1 - RTV615 from GE Silicones, Silicone #2 - Sylgard 184 from Dow-Corning. Control – standard petri dish (Nunclon from Nunc, denmark):

Incubation Time	24h	48h	72h	96h
Control	Adherence	Growth starts	Growth	Growth
Silicone #1	No adherence	Adherence	Growth starts	Growth
Silicone #2	No adherence	Adherence	Growth starts	Growth

After re-locating the cells on fresh, identical dishes:

Time from re-location	24h	48h	72h	96h
Total Elapsed time	120h	144h	168h	192h
Control	Adherence	Growth starts	Growth	Growth
Silicone #1	No adherence	No adherence	Adherence	Growth starts
Silicone #2	No adherence	No adherence	Adherence	Growth starts

It is important to note that while cell adherence and growth were postponed, no cell death was observed during the experiment.

Description of preferred embodiments

Before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and the arrangement of the components set forth in the following

5 description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments or of being practiced or carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting

10 The invention includes a manufacturing process. The first step in the manufacturing process is making the mold with embossed micro-patterns (i.e. excess of material on the mold surface) of the cell wells, interconnecting plumbing routes and reservoirs. The mold may be manufactured using known methods of micro-modeling, e.g. photolithography, micro-etching, micro-plating, etc. The mold may be fashioned from any solid material that is known in the art for molding such as nickel.

15 Figure 1 depicts an example of a simple Nickel mold of cell wells array and demonstrates the microstructure of the embossed Nickel domes.

Figure 2 demonstrates a more complex mold design, harboring microfluidics vessels and reservoirs.

Preferably, the mold is surface-treated to reduce adherence.

20 In a subsequent step, the liquid PDMS is cast upon the mold. After de-aeration, vulcanization (=polymerization) may take place in room temperature or be accelerated by heating up to 150°C. As vulcanization is accomplished, the cast may be fully peeled off the mold, resulting in a PDMS slab engraved with cell wells, plumbing routes and reservoirs.

25 Figures 3 (a) and 3(c) depict the high quality of the replication process that forms the P-ITICBP from mold, with regards to the standard glass ITICBP (Figure 3 (b)).

The P-ITICBP resulting from the manufacturing process may be used with the open side of the wells and plumbing routes face up. The plumbing routes are actually "U" or "V" shaped thus it is advised that their open end should be sealed in order to create 30 a closed fluid system (Figure 3(d)).

The PDMS casting may be placed on a microscope slide, and covered with a cover slip. Adhesion of the cover slip to the PDMS seals the internal cavity of the P-ITICBP (wells and plumbing).

5 Optionally, but preferably, every plumbing route is terminated with a larger diameter reservoir, in order to enable easy access to the reservoir by using a small diameter hollow metal needle or plastic tubing to form an input/output port to an external fluid management system.

10 The P-ITICBP may be used in a complex system for controlled cells flow to the chip together with controlled staining of the cells. For example, a laser tweezers system (i.e. highly focused laser beam capable of trapping micron-sized particles and living cells in a liquid medium) may be incorporated in order to manipulate and sort different types of cells.

15 Figure 4 depicts the use of laser tweezers to selectively load, re-locate and manipulate living cells in the cell wells of the P-ITICBP.

20 The P-ITICBP can take a significant role in systems where several dyes or reagents should flush the cells. For example, a computer-controlled system can pump cells into the P-ITICBP and monitor the amount and timing of various fluids, as required for a specific test protocol. Along this time, the cells are placed in their wells, keeping their specific location and may be observed through the microscope (Figure 5).

25 Figure 6 depicts a system that can activate laser tweezers to sort cells according to preset characteristics. The laser tweezers trap individual cells and separate them into different reservoirs within the P-ITICBP. By pumping fluids into or from the reservoirs, the separated cells can then be collected to external vessels.

A combination of the systems described in figures 4 and 5 is an especially preferred embodiment of the invention.

According to some preferred embodiments, two or more P-ITICBP chips and/or plumbing routes are stacked vertically.

According to additional preferred embodiments a various number of input and output ports, having identical or various diameters are employed.

According to additional preferred embodiments micro-valves and/or pumps are used in conjunction with the P-ITICBP.

According to additional preferred embodiments various combinations and designs of well sizes, interconnecting plumbing routes and reservoirs are employed.

5 According to additional preferred embodiments adhesives and/or plasma treatment are employed to adhere PDMS to PDMS, glass or other materials.

According to additional preferred embodiments PU (Polyurethane) is employed to construct the P-ITICBP.

10 According to additional preferred embodiments staining of certain marking points (fiducial points) on the P-ITICBP aids in calibration of orientation of the ITICBP during observation.

According to additional preferred embodiments staining certain marking points (fiducial points) on the P-ITICBP mold to be transferred to the PDMS during casting (to calibrate the orientation of the P-ITICBP during observation).

15 According to additional preferred embodiments the staining is accomplished with visible dye or fluorescent dye.

According to additional preferred embodiments the P-ITICBP is used in conjunction with manual or computer-controlled fluid management system.

20 According to additional preferred embodiments the P-ITICBP is used in conjunction with a laser tweezers system.

25 It is appreciated that certain features of the invention, which are, for clarity, described in the context of separate embodiments, may also be provided in combination in a single embodiment. Conversely, various features of the invention, which are, for brevity, described in the context of a single embodiment, may also be provided separately or in any suitable subcombination.

30 Although the invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications and variations that fall within the spirit and broad

scope of the appended claims. All publications, patents and patent applications mentioned in this specification are herein incorporated in their entirety by reference into the specification, to the same extent as if each individual publication, patent or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated herein by reference. In addition, citation or identification of any reference in this application shall not be construed as an admission that such reference is 5 available as prior art to the present invention.

CLAIM: A Micro-fluidics Integrated Polymeric Individual Cell Chip
10 system essentially as described herein above or depicted in the drawings.

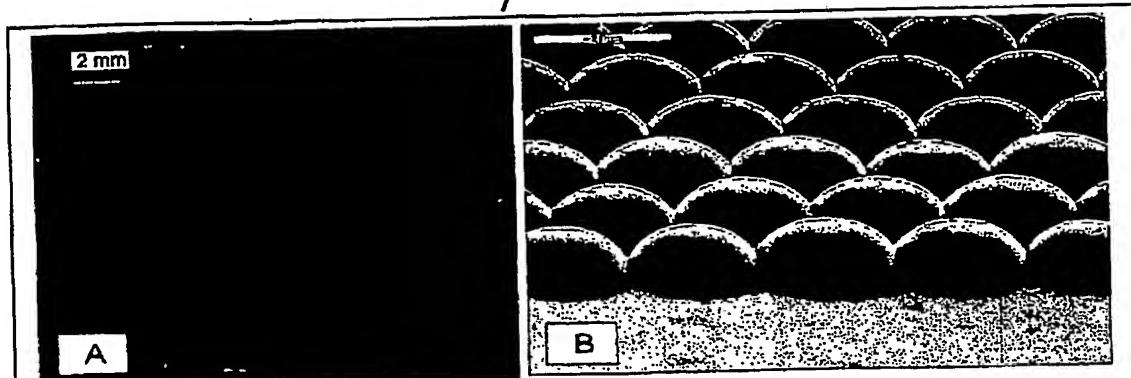


Figure 1:

- (1st) A micro-plated Nickel mold of four separated 100*100 cell-wells arrays.
- (2nd) A SEM micrograph of the domes on the Nickel plate, that will produce the cell-wells in the PDMS replica.

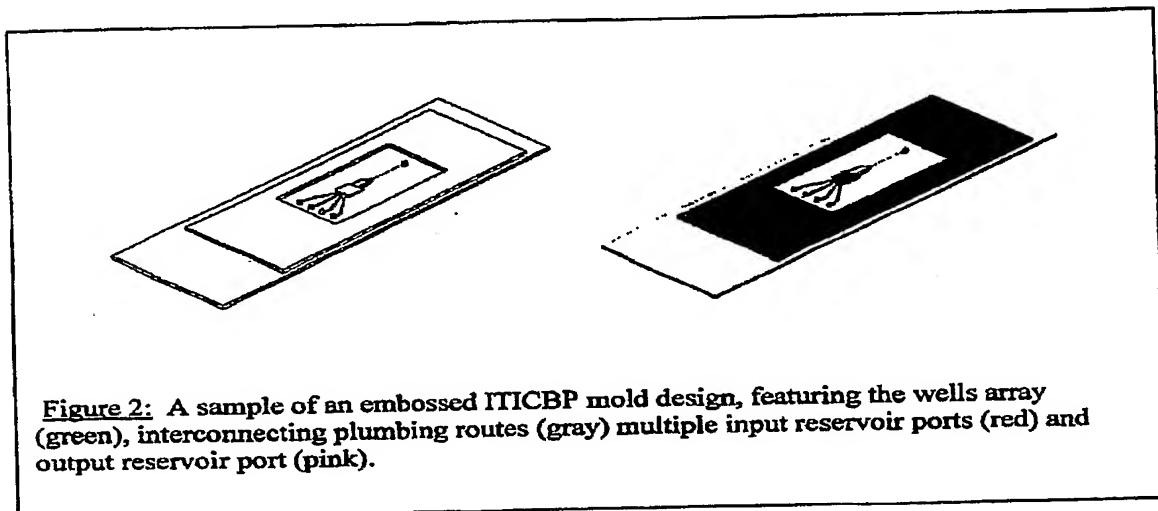
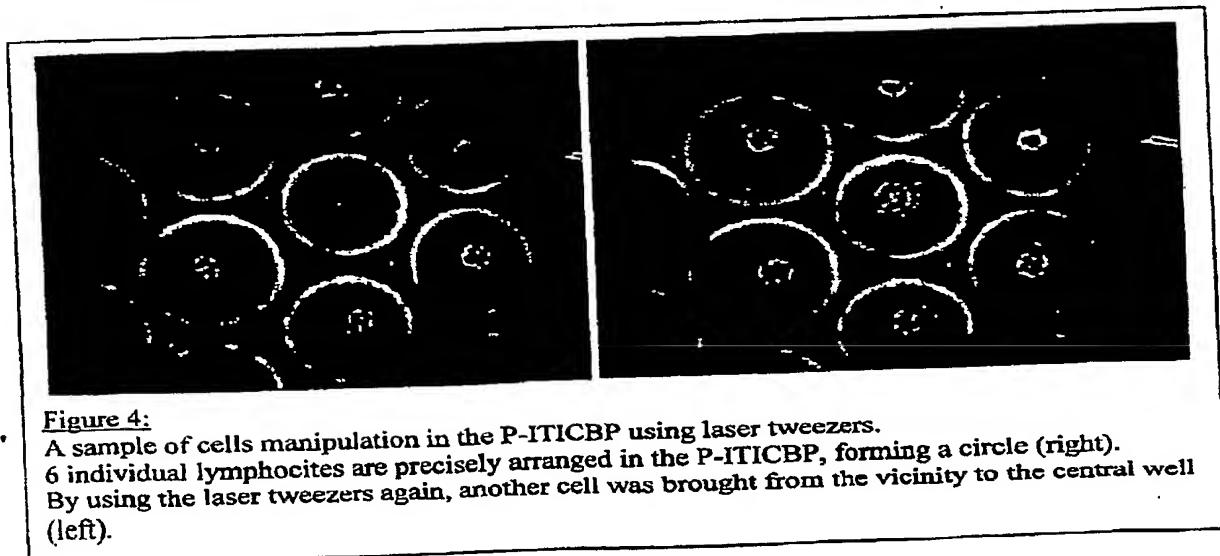
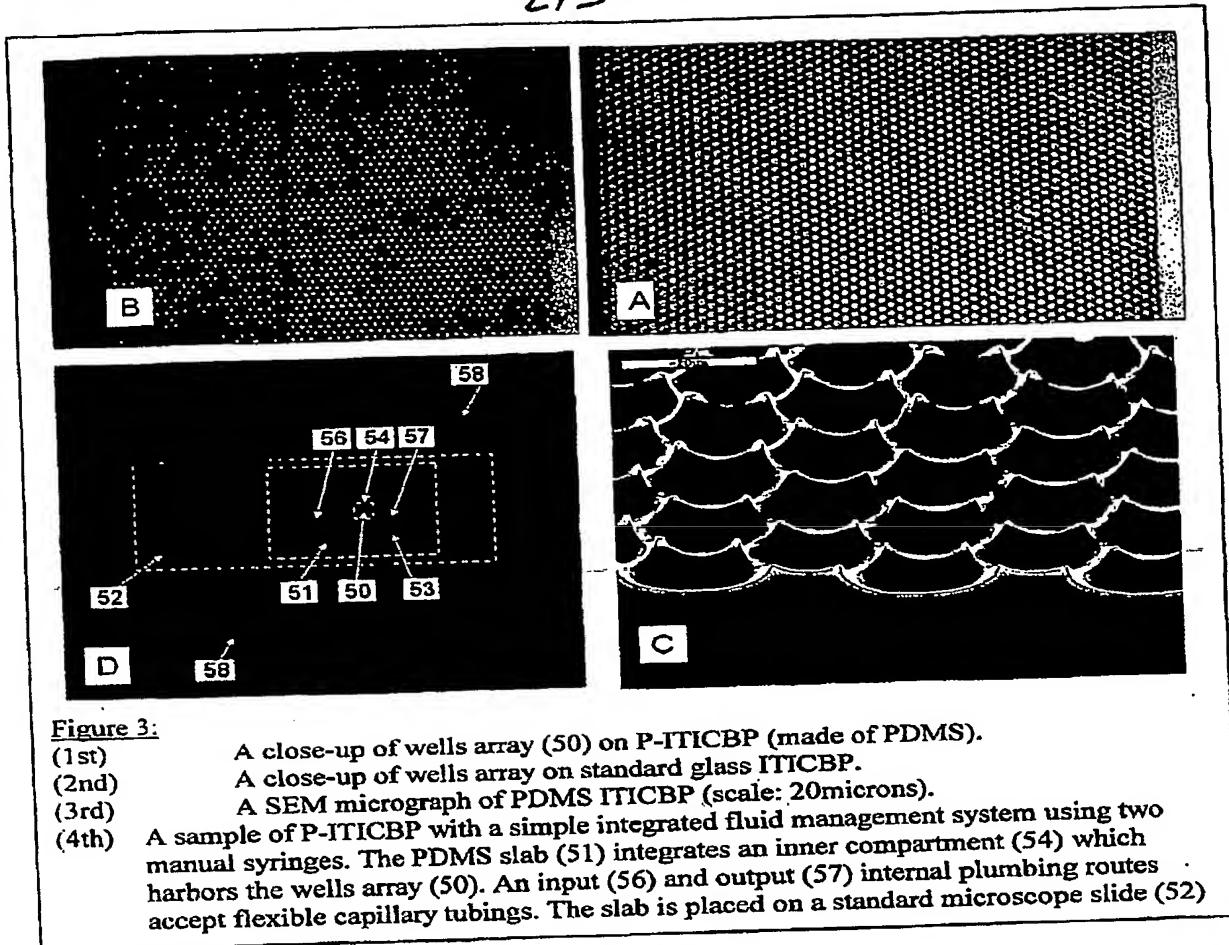


Figure 2: A sample of an embossed ITICBP mold design, featuring the wells array (green), interconnecting plumbing routes (gray) multiple input reservoir ports (red) and output reservoir port (pink).



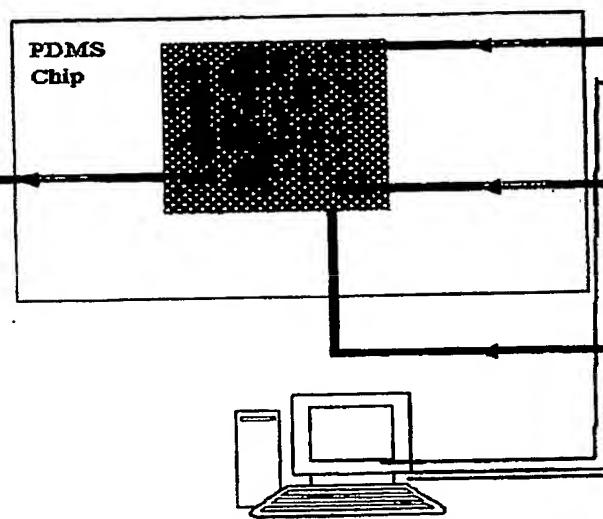


Figure 5: A demonstration of a P-ITICBP application for controlled sequential cell staining and flushing.

3/3

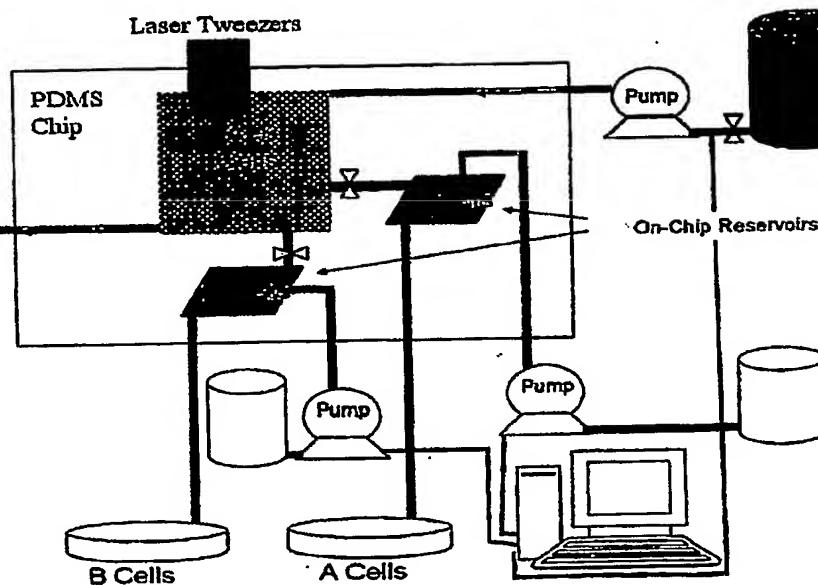


Figure 6: A demonstration of a P-ITICBP application for cell sorting utilizing computer controlled Laser Tweezers and micro-fluidics.